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13 January 1969

25X1

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS



25X1

South Korea: President Pak Chong-hui is pressing on with plans to run for a third term. (Page 3)



25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A012900070002-0

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A012900070002-0

25X1

South Korea: President Pak Chong-hui is pressing on with plans to run for a third term.

[redacted] the decision has been made to go ahead with a nation-wide campaign to promote public support for removing the constitutional barrier to the President's running for a third term in 1971. [redacted]

[redacted] by starting early, much of the political heat can be taken out of the third term issue and strong public support can be generated for changing the constitution. To undercut criticism of the regime's most glaring fault, the first step in the campaign reportedly will be a vigorous anticorruption drive aimed at civil servants, the press, and possibly some politicians.

Civilian opposition to changing the constitution is strongest among the students and intellectuals. Opposition politicians, who would be most likely to rally this sentiment, have largely been discredited by their factional bickering. Within the regime, opponents of a third term are mostly supporters of Pak's political associate Kim Chong-pil, who has presidential ambitions of his own. Kim, however, has close personal ties to Pak and is unlikely to oppose the President openly on this issue.

The military, after several years of virtual noninvolvement in politics, is beginning to take sides for and against changing the constitution, but probably is overwhelmingly loyal to Pak at this time. Pak last fall established an army security command with a major responsibility to guard against any military dissidence. [redacted]

13 Jan 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

25X1

25X1

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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